

CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for providing packaging for products of varying sizes including
- a) a first and second film source each film source (A & B), each film source having film of a defined width, wherein the width of the first film source (A) is different from the width of the film of the second film source (B); and
 - b) the means (3) for selecting a film source based on the size of the product to be packaged, wherein

the film of the first film source (A), and the film of the second film source (B) are each in the form of a tubular lay flat film (21).

The apparatus characterised in that

the apparatus includes a sealing mechanism (24) for creating a seal in the tubular lay flat film (21).

2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 which includes a means for selecting a film length (3).
3. The apparatus as claimed in either claim 1 or claim 2 which includes a means (24) for cutting the tubular lay flat film (21).
4. The apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 which includes means for inputting which enables a user of the apparatus to use the means for selecting the film source (3 and 4).
5. The apparatus as claimed in any one of claim 2 to 4 which includes means for inputting which enables a user of the apparatus to use the means for selecting a film length (3).

6. The apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 which includes a means for remotely sensing to determine product size, and a means to control the means (3 and 4) for selecting a film source.
7. The apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 6 which includes a means for remotely sensing to determine product size, and a means to control the means (3) for selecting a film length.
8. The apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 which includes a printer for printing onto the tubular lay flat film (21).
9. The apparatus as claimed in claim 8 which includes a printer shuttle which enables the printer to move to the required film(21).
10. The apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 wherein the film is heat-shrinkable.
11. A method for providing packaging for product of various sizes using apparatus having a first and second film source (A and B) having film of a defined width, wherein the width of the film of the first film source (A) is different from the width of the film of the second film source (B), characterised by the steps of:
 - a) determining the size of the product to be packaged,
 - b) using a means (3 and 4) for selecting a film source to determine from which dispenser film (21) is to be dispensed in accordance with the product size,
 - c) using a means for selecting a film (3) length to determine the length of the film to be dispensed in accordance with the product size,
 - d) dispensing film of the required width and length (3 and 4),
 - e) sealing the film (24); and
 - f) cutting the film (24) to produce a bag of the desired length.
12. The apparatus substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated by the accompanying drawings.

13. A method of providing packaging substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated by the accompanying drawings.

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B1

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C2

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